

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
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R 121722Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6084
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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COPENHAGEN FOR FISHERIES ATTACHE

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, UK
SUBJECT: CURRENT THINKING ON UK/EC FISHERIES DEADLOCK

REF: LONDON 1472

1. THE EC FISHERIES COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR LATE
MAY HAS BEEN PUT OFF AT LEAST UNTIL JUNE. OUR UK FISH-
ERIES CONTACTS READ NOTHING INTO THIS -- THEY DO NOT IN
ANY CASE EXPECT A PROMPT RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE UK
AND IRELAND ON THE ONE HAND AND THE OTHER EC SEVEN ON
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THE OTHER. RATHER, THEY NOTE A FAILURE OF THE CONTINEN-
TAL FISHERIES MINISTERS -- AND THEIR CONSTITUENCIES --
TO REALIZE THAT THE BRITISH WILL "NEVER" GIVE IN TO WHAT
THE EUROPEANS VIEW AS IRRESISTIBLE PRESSURE. THE EC-7
CONSIDER THAT TIME IS ON THEIR SIDE, THAT SINCE IN THE
ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT, THEY CAN FISH UP TO SIX MILES
FROM THE UK COAST THE UK INDUSTRY MUST "SUE FOR PEACE"

WHEN THEY FIND THEIR SOURCE OF FISH EXHAUSTED. THE BRITISH DISPUTE THIS, AND VOW TO HOLD OUT UNTIL THE EC COMMON FISHERIES POLICY BREAKS DOWN ON ITS OWN.

2. BRITAIN HAS NOT ACCEPTED THE BERLIN COMPROMISE, WHEREBY THE EC (OTHER THAN BRITAIN) HAS IMPLEMENTED THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE FISHERIES PACKAGE (MAINLY CONCERNED WITH CONSERVATION) THAT WERE NOT THE SUBJECTS OF RESERVATIONS BY ANY PARTY. BUT BRITAIN, CYNICAL ENOUGH ABOUT THE GOOD FAITH OF FRANCE AND GERMANY AND THEIR FISHERMEN, IS EVEN MORE CYNICAL ABOUT THE ABILITY OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO ENFORCE QUOTAS ON THEIR FLEETS, AND ANTICIPATES ABUSE OF THE NORWEGIAN QUOTAS ACCORDED THE EC AS THE CONTINENTALS RUN TO CREATE "HISTORICAL" CATCHES TO USE AS FUTURE BARGAINING LEVERS. UK FISHERMEN RESENT FLOUTING OF TECHNICAL RULES (SUCH AS MESH SIZE) BY FRENCH FISHERMEN. AND THEY VIEW AS A THREAT THE POTENTIAL COMPETITION POSED BY SPANISH AND GREEK FLEETS IN A FUTURE EXPANDED EC.

3. AS WE HAVE REPORTED BEFORE (REFTEL), THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, WITH ITS FISHERIES INDUSTRY SQUARELY BEHIND IT, HAS TAKEN A HARD-LINE POSITION IN NEGOTIATING AN EC FISHERIES REGIME, DEMANDING PREFERENTIAL RIGHTS OUT TO 50 MILES. AN ALL-PARTY COMMITTEE OF MPS LAST WEEK DELIVERED A SHARP ATTACK ON ROY HATTERSLEY (NOW PRICES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARY BUT FORMERLY, AS A FOREIGN OFFICE MINISTER, RESPONSIBLE FOR BRITAIN'S COD WAR NEGOTIATIONS WITH ICELAND IN 1975), AND ON BRITAIN'S CONDUCT OF FISHERIES

BUT SHOULD SEEK A BILATERAL DEAL WITH NORWAY AS DENMARK HAS DONE WITH BOTH NORWAY AND SWEDEN.

4. IN SHORT, UK FISHERMEN FEEL THAT THE EC-7 HAVE UNDERESTIMATED THE BRITISH STRENGTH OF CONVICTION. SHOULD DENMARK GO IT ALONE IN SIGNING A FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH EAST GERMANY AND POLAND, THE UK WOULD BE UNDER GREAT POLITICAL PRESSURE TO MAKE A UNILATERAL ARRANGEMENT OF ITS OWN WITH NORWAY -- AND THE UK FISHERIES INDUSTRY WOULD WELCOME WITH OPEN ARMS SUCH A BREAKDOWN OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY.

BREWSTER

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